

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
2 receiving from a user an affirmative indication that the user is no longer using a
3 system; and
4 adjusting an original power policy associated with the system in response to the
5 received indication.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the original power policy places the system in
2 a low-power state after a pre-determined period of time associated with at least one of: (i)
3 a keyboard key press, (ii) mouse activity, and (iii) a device access.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the low-power state is associated with an
2 advanced configuration and power interface low-power state.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the low-power state is associated with at least
2 one of: (i) a global state, (ii) a device power state, (iii) a sleep state, (iv) a processor
3 power state, and (v) a performance state.
- 1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein said adjusting comprises reducing the pre-
2 determined period of time.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 saving the original power policy.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 arranging for the system to enter a low-power state in accordance with the
3 adjusted power policy.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2 receiving from a user a second indication that the user is again using the system;
3 and
4 restoring the original power policy associated with the system in response to the
5 second indication.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the system includes a processor and comprises
2 at least one of: (i) a desktop personal computer; (ii) a mobile system, (iii) a workstation,
3 (iv) a server, (v) a set top box, and (vi) a game system.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said receiving and said
2 adjusting is performed by at least one of: (i) a software application, (ii) a hardware
3 device, (iii) an operating system, (iv) a driver, and (v) a basic input/output system.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the received indication is a request to turn off
2 a display unit associated with the system.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the original power policy is configurable by
2 the user.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the original power policy is associated with
2 operating system power management.

1 14. An apparatus, comprising:
2 an input to receive an affirmative indication from a user that the user is no longer
3 using a system; and
4 a power policy adjustment unit to adjust an original power policy associated with
5 the system in response to the received indication.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the original power policy places the
2 system in a low-power state after a pre-determined period of time associated with a user
3 activity and said adjusting comprises reducing the pre-determined period of time.

1 16. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a
3 machine result in the following:
4 receiving from a user an affirmative indication that the user is no longer
5 using a system, and
6 adjusting an original power policy associated with the system in response
7 to the received indication.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the original power policy places the
2 system in a low-power state after a pre-determined period of time associated with a user
3 activity and said adjusting comprises reducing the pre-determined period of time.

1 18. A method, comprising:
2 receiving from a user a request to turn off a display unit associated with a system;

3 saving timeout values associated with an original set of power policies, the
4 timeout values indicating when the system will be placed in an advanced configuration
5 and power interface low-power state;

6 reducing the timeout values associated with the original set of power policies;

7 if no work is being done by the system, arranging for the system to enter the low-
8 power state in accordance with the reduced timeout values.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the original set of power policies is
2 associated with operating system power management and is configurable by the user.

1 20. A computer system, comprising:

2 a user display unit control input to receive a request to turn off a display unit
3 associated with the computer system; and

4 an apparatus, including:

5 an operating system power management unit, and

6 a power policy adjustment unit to adjust an original power policy
7 associated with the operating system power management unit in accordance with
8 the received request.

1 21. The computer system of claim 20, wherein the original power policy places
2 the computer system in a low-power state after a pre-determined period of time
3 associated with a user activity and said adjusting comprises reducing the pre-determined
4 period of time.